

# Steamboat Mountain Records

Springdale and Salt Lake City, Utah

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For Immediate Release

12 August 2008

Red Rock Rondo's *Zion Canyon Song Cycle*  
CD Release Concert at Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center  
September 6 – 7:30pm

A concert for music lovers, Zion hikers and Utah history buffs alike: Red Rock Rondo's complete *Zion Canyon Song Cycle* will be performed in its entirety for the first time – and released in a specially packaged CD – September 6, 7:30pm at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, 138 W. Broadway, presented by Music in the Box.

This Red Rock Rondo concert will be introduced by Zion National Park Superintendent Jock Whitworth in celebration of Zion's 2009 Centennial, "A Century of Sanctuary." The evening will also feature a short work-in-progress preview of the 2009 PBS music special about Red Rock Rondo's *Zion Canyon Song Cycle*.

*Zion Canyon Song Cycle* is 16 new Americana songs celebrating the history and contemporary life of Zion National Park and its neighboring communities. Ghosts in Grafton, stolen quilts in Rockville and moonlight sonatas in Springdale are some of the colorful stories told - while the Watchman, Angel's Landing, the Virgin River and the Great White Throne are some of the stunning places visited – in the concert and CD of interrelated songs.

*Zion Canyon Song Cycle* is performed by Red Rock Rondo, a six-member ensemble that includes some of Utah's best-known folk, classical and jazz musicians on a lively assortment of guitars, violins, oboe, English horn, button accordion, banjo, harmonica, mandolin, mandocello, jaw harp, upright bass and vocals. Red Rock Rondo includes award-winning composer Phillip Bimstein, internationally-known recording artist Kate MacLeod, Deseret String Band founder Hal Cannon, former Cowdaddy Harold Carr, and Salt Lake Symphony members Flavia Cerviño-Wood and Charlotte Bell (musicians' bios attached).

A special guest making his Salt Lake City premiere is the rancher and former Springdale Elementary School principal, Leon Lewis, who will take the audience along on a recited tour of his farm in "When the Rooster Crows (Company's Coming)," a song based on his oral history.

*Zion Canyon Song Cycle* was composed by Phillip Bimstein and drawn from oral histories and source materials he gathered in Rockville and Springdale, where he served two terms as mayor. The work was commissioned by Continental Harmony, a major initiative of the American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts. Described by *Outside* magazine as "America's only all-natural politician-composer," Phillip Bimstein's works have been performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Aspen Music Festival, London's Royal Opera House, on NPR and, with his 1980s new wave rock group Phil 'n'

the Blanks, on MTV.

"I had always wanted to write a cycle of songs about one place, one people," said Bimstein. "My heart was especially drawn to write this work about Zion Canyon, a powerful landscape that drew me all the way from Chicago to set down new roots. The songs express both the geology and the culture that sharply defines my home - many-layered, abutting the old and the new, crosscutting between the stories of a diverse people, embracing fault lines and natural bridges alike.

When I moved there in 1988 the community was deeply polarized, but within a few years it evolved to become a model of civility, consensus and collaboration. While much of that work was political, its seeds were first planted socially and culturally. I want to see those seeds nurtured and sustained. That's where these songs come in. They not only keep the community's stories alive, but I hope they help cultivate common ground, enhance our mutual sense of place and develop deeper understanding between generations."

The early pioneers thought the West Temple, the highest peak in Zion Canyon, looked like a steamboat sailing high on the horizon, and so they called it Steamboat Mountain. Taking its name and inspiration from the local imagination, Steamboat Mountain Records is proud to release Red Rock Rondo's CD, *Zion Canyon Song Cycle*.

In keeping with the local and historical themes of the music, Red Rock Rondo's *Zion Canyon Song Cycle* CD is adorned with two paintings by Rockville artist, Kate Starling, and includes a 24-page color booklet with stories and lyrics of each song (more stories and pictures can be found at [www.redrockrondo.com](http://www.redrockrondo.com)). Designed by David Krummenacher at KUED Channel 7, the CD art also includes stills from the forthcoming Red Rock Rondo PBS music special and DVD. Produced by the Western Folklife Center, the special will premiere in Springdale and on KUED Channel 7 in the spring of 2009.

Red Rock Rondo, the *Zion Canyon Song Cycle* CD and the accompanying 2009 TV special/DVD are all signature projects of Zion National Park's 2009 Centennial, "A Century of Sanctuary." The *Zion Canyon Song Cycle* CD was recorded and mixed by Michael Greene at Counterpoint Studios with the generous support of the Zion Natural History Association and the Utah Arts Council, with additional production support from the Western Folklife Center. Zion Natural History Association, the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies and the Utah Humanities Council provided invaluable research assistance.

#### Vital info:

CD Release Concert for Red Rock Rondo's *Zion Canyon Song Cycle*

September 6 – 7:30pm

Presented by Music in the Box

Jeanné Wagner Theater, Rose Wagner Center

138 W. Broadway (300 South), Salt Lake City

Tickets (\$15 advance, \$12 students/seniors, \$18 at the door) available at ArtTix

[music\\_inthe\\_box@yahoo.com](mailto:music_inthe_box@yahoo.com)

<http://www.redrockrondo.com>

**Phillip Bimstein** *guitar, vocals, composer*

Described by *Outside* magazine as "America's only all-natural politician-composer," Phillip Bimstein's works have been performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Abravanel Hall, Aspen Music Festival, London's Royal Opera House, on NPR and, with his 1980s new wave rock group Phil 'n' the Blanks, on MTV. Bimstein's *Garland Hirschi's Cows* CD garnered rave reviews internationally in such publications as *Stereo Review*, *Wired*, *Fanfare*, and *Stereophile*. In 2007 *The New York Times* reviewed "the irresistible charm of Mr. Bimstein's music" and "his uncanny knack for finding the music of everyday life." The 1999 Madeleine Festival featured the premiere of his *Refuge* string quartet, based on the words and voice of Terry Tempest Williams. He is also a member of the chamber folk ensemble, blue haiku.

**Kate MacLeod** *violin, guitar, vocals*

Kate MacLeod, a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, travels the United States and Europe performing her original songs. Extremely versatile on the violin, she plays traditional fiddle styles from North America and the British Isles. She has five recordings of original material published by Folk Era Records and Waterbug Records. Kate MacLeod's songs have been featured on syndicated radio shows, including a "A Prairie Home Companion," and have been recorded and performed by musicians across the country.

**Hal Cannon** *mandolin, mandocello, banjo, harmonica, button accordion, jaw harp, vocals*

Hal Cannon is the Founding Director of the Western Folklife Center and its famous child, the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. A member of the Deseret String Band for thirty years, he remains an active musician, writing songs and playing traditional stringed instruments. He has published a dozen books and recordings on the folk arts of the West, and has produced with Taki Telonidis an Emmy Award winning documentary as well as regular features for National Public Radio. Hal Cannon has received three Wrangler Awards from the Cowboy Hall of Fame, the 1998 Will Rogers Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Folklore Society's Botkin Award, and the Governor's Award in both the Arts and the Humanities.

**Charlotte Bell** *oboe, English horn*

Charlotte Bell is a member of blue haiku, the Salt Lake Symphony and Scherzando Winds. She also performs in the Paradigm Concert Series and with other local ensembles and musicians such as Kate MacLeod and Anke Summerhill. She is the author of a recently published book on yoga philosophy, titled *Mindful Yoga, Mindful Life*, published by Rodmell Press.

**Flavia Cervino-Wood** *violin*

A native of Chile, Flavia Cervino-Wood has been a member of the Brockport Symphony in New York, Milton Nascimento and Grupo Agua in Brazil, and The Sol y Luna Band in San Francisco. She has performed with Cecil Taylor and the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and is a current member of blue haiku and the Salt Lake Symphony.

**Harold Carr** *upright bass, spoken word*

Harold Carr has performed and recorded with Bobby McFerrin, Crystal Gayle, Lightnin'

Hopkins, John McCuen, Steve Lacy, Catie Curtis and Matt Flinner. Harold has been a musician/poet-in-residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, guest soloist at the Frutillar Music Festival in Chile, composer/soloist with the Guangdong Modern Dance Company in Guang Zhou, China, invited poet for the Utah State Governor and commissioned composer/performer at New Music America. He has been a member of a number of popular Utah-based bands such as The Cowdaddies, The Jarman/Kingston Quartet, Amnesia and Wood. He is currently a member of blue haiku.